

FISCAL NOTE

HB 968 - SB 1942

April 6, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes the "Tennessee Medical Marijuana Act" which authorizes the use of marijuana for persons with certain debilitating conditions. Requires the Department of Health to create a system of accepting and reviewing applications including an application fee and issuing registry identification cards upon verification. Requires any person who is issued an identification card to designate a primary caregiver. Requires a minor who suffers from a debilitating disease to have written parental consent. Fabrication or misrepresentation of a registry card to a law enforcement officer is a Class B misdemeanor. Creates an offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 and 180 days in jail for any person providing identifying information regarding qualifying patients, physicians, or primary caregivers to the federal government.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$43,300 Recurring
\$9,300 One-Time

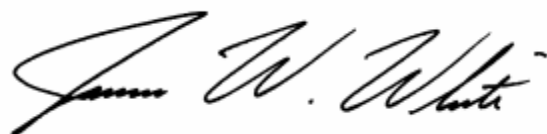
Increase State Revenues - \$52,600

Assumptions:

- The Department of Health would hire an ASA4 position to maintain the database, process applications and renewals, print and issue ID cards, and collect payments estimated at \$41,600 for salary, benefits and travel.
- Communication and office expenses are estimated at \$1,700.
- The database development, computer, software, and landscaping are included in the one-time expenditures estimated at \$9,300.
- The Department will collect application and renewal fees in an amount that covers the expenditures of the program.
- If there is a decrease in convictions, there would not be a significant impact on expenditures related to court proceedings or incarceration due to the legislation creating two criminal offenses which will require resources for prosecution and incarceration.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director